

community. He was a business leader who owned two small businesses in Sunset Park and who worked to bring together merchants throughout the community, especially along 4th Avenue, to improve the neighborhood and their livelihood.

Monchito, recognizing that youth are our community's and Nation's future, would often sponsor positive activities and provide trophies and other awards for Sunset Park's youth. His civic mindedness inspired merchants all along 4th and 5th Avenues in Sunset Park to commit themselves to bettering the community, including developing a constructive working relationship with the 72nd Police Precinct.

Monchito's generous and charitable nature would not allow him to see another human being suffering and he would often give freely to those in need. His generosity and leadership are legendary in the community to this day.

Sunset Park lost a great man, a great Puerto Rican and an effective leader when Monchito died three years ago. The renaming of 5th Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets is a well-deserved tribute to Monchito Pascualy who gave so much, and so lovingly to so many in our community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Monchito Pascualy on the day of a street being renamed in his honor.

A TRIBUTE TO LOCAL HEROS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on December 27, 1997, James Floyd, a part-time Plainville, Massachusetts Police Officer, responded to an accident on Mirimiche Road. Officer Floyd found a car submerged in Mirimichi Lake when he arrived at the scene. After calling for assistance, he proceeded into the freezing water to rescue any victims. He was unable at first to free Thomas Spadoni, who was trapped inside. When Officer Floyd surfaced, Officers Greg Kiff and Brian Scully were at the accident site. Officer Floyd was given a knife and able to cut the victim free. Mr. Spadoni was then given CPR by Officers Kiff and Scully, who were assisted by paramedics from Plainville and North Attleboro. Officer Floyd returned to the water to verify that there were no remaining victims in the car.

Thomas Spadoni was transported to Sturdy Memorial Hospital and then to the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. Hospital officials confirmed that Mr. Spadoni was "clinically drowned." He survived only because of the heroic efforts of Officer Floyd and the other officers at the scene. When James Floyd was asked why he jumped into the water, he stated, "It was a lot of training and instinct."

On January 12, 1998 the citizens of Plainville honored their heroes at a special ceremony in the Wood School Library. Officer Floyd was given the Medal of Valor for actions that far exceeded expectation. The people of Plainville, as well as the citizens of Massachusetts, are indeed fortunate to have these truly dedicated public safety officers in their service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, in the afternoon of Monday, June 22, 1997, I was unavoidably delayed from reaching this chamber and therefore missed roll call vote number 252, the vote on the Foley amendment to H.R. 4060; roll call vote number 253, the vote on final passage on H.R. 4060, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill; roll call vote number 254, the vote on final passage of H.R. 4059, the Military Construction Appropriations bill; roll call vote number 255, to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 288 and roll call 256 to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 452. I want the record to show that if I had been able to be present in this chamber when these votes were cast, I would have voted yea on each of them.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS COORDINATING COUNCIL OF RIVERBAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a group of people celebrating the 25th anniversary of working daily to address the needs of senior citizens who live at Co-op City in the Bronx. The Senior Citizens Coordinating Council on Riverbay, Inc. has taken as its mission to seek out and develop resources and services to meet the needs of the elderly in Co-op City, to facilitate service co-ordination between agencies, to establish a safety net of services for the vulnerable elderly, to advocate for seniors at all levels of decision making, and to organize, educate and empower seniors to act on their own behalf.

This is a grass roots organization in the best sense, for it is made up of local people banding together to help themselves and others similarly situated. It was organized in 1973 as a non-profit organization to help the elderly in Co-op City, the largest co-operative community in the world with more than 15,000 apartments and 50,000 residents.

SCCC was formed shortly after Co-op City opened to help the already large number of retired and those nearing retirement who had come to live in Co-op City. SCCC has organized programs targeting the homebound elderly and operates three centers for congregate meals to help the 90 percent of the seniors in Co-op City who are in the low- to moderate-income categories.

I have worked with SCCC and find it an exemplary model of a helping organization; one that is run locally by people from the community to help their neighbors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber for roll call votes held the evening of Monday, June 22. Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on roll call 252 and "yea" on roll call votes 253 through 256.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on June 18, my wife and I adopted a newborn baby boy and I was unable to be in Washington for votes. Due to the adoption, I missed votes on June 18, 19, and 22. Had I been present I would have cast votes as follows.

I would have voted Aye on the following Roll Call votes: 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 251, 254, 255, and 256.

I would have voted No on the following Roll Call vote: 242.

ECONOMIC GROWTH ACT OF 1998

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH's "Economic Growth Act of 1998." As an original cosponsor of this legislation, I am proud that it will boost economic growth and offer better financial investment resources for all Americans.

The "Economic Growth Act of 1998" will reduce capital gains rates, simplify the tax rate by eliminating exemptions and reduce the holding period for assets. This bill is a win-win situation for all citizens. Critics have claimed that reducing taxes on investment will only benefit the wealthy. This is not the case. A 1997 Congressional Budget Office study found half of all U.S. families own assets such as stocks, bonds, businesses and real estate which encourage savings and investment. One-third of all taxpayers who reported gains or losses over a 10-year period made less than \$50,000 annually. This legislation will make investment and planning more manageable for all Americans, regardless of their annual income.

Mr. Speaker, the "Economic Growth Act of 1998" will benefit Americans, regardless of their stage in life, if they are starting a family, sending a child to college or preparing for retirement. For too long, the threat of monetary punishment often associated with entrepreneurship has loomed over the heads of Americans, discouraging them from saving and investing. This legislation will move our economy with the changing times and interests of America's families and businesses.

A TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE RANGER JOSEPH
KOLODSKI

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and deeply saddened by the news last weekend of a federal law enforcement official's murder in my district. Ranger Joseph David Kolodski, 36, of the U.S. Park Service was killed in cold blood while serving our nation and keeping Western North Carolina communities safe. Unfortunately, legislative business will keep me from attending Thursday's memorial services, so I am sending members of my staff to convey our sympathies and promise that this senseless act will not go unpunished.

A six-year veteran of the Park Service, Ranger Kolodski epitomized the dedication and sacrifice that protect and maintain our nation's natural resources. He was a devoted father and family man. Joe was also a dedicated member of his community. He served in his community church, First Baptist Church in Bryson City, North Carolina. He also volunteered with the Cherokee Emergency Medical Services.

I plan to inquire of National Park Service officials what equipment upgrades or resources could prevent another tragedy from occurring. We need to guarantee that our National Parks and Forests remain safe for visitors and personnel. In the 82 years of the National Park Service, Ranger Kolodski is the third to fall in the line of duty. We need also to be sure the men and women who keep them safe have the tools they need to protect themselves!

Finally, my thoughts and prayers are with Florie—Ranger Kolodski's wife of 17 years who is also a Park Ranger—and Rachel, Joseph and Sarah—Joseph's children. For them, Ranger Kolodski was a devoted husband and father. At this time of grief, I urge Members to join with me in conveying our sympathies to this young family and work with me to see that our Park Rangers have the tools they need to be safe.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
HURON PLAYHOUSE IN RECOGNITION OF ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of the truly outstanding landmarks in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, the Huron Playhouse. On Opening Night, Tuesday, June 30, 1998, the Huron Playhouse will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary.

The Huron Playhouse is the oldest continuing educational summer theater in the state of Ohio. Over the past fifty years, the Huron Playhouse has been the summer home to more than 475,000 attendees, who have come to see 329 productions of some 262 different plays. The successes of the Huron Playhouse,

over its fifty-year history, are strong examples of what hard work, determination, talent, and creativity can bring.

The Huron Playhouse has a very rich and tradition-filled history. Started in 1948, the Huron Playhouse began as a partnership summer theater program by Bowling Green State University and the Huron community. Over the past fifty years, the BGSU/Huron partnership has continued to grow and has provided the tremendously educational and entertaining theatrical productions that are associated with the Huron Playhouse.

Mr. Speaker, the Huron Playhouse is one of the cornerstones of the Huron community. It continues to be a wonderful summer theater of which we can all be proud. The Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Huron Playhouse is a time to reflect upon the achievements of the past, and a time to look to the future with much enthusiasm. I am sure the next fifty years of the Huron Playhouse will be just as memorable as the first.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Huron Playhouse, to all those who have attended its performances, to the directors, producers, cast, crew, and orchestra members, and all others who have helped build it into the premier theater in the area. We congratulate you on fifty wonderful years, and wish you all the best in the future.

HONORING GENEVIEVE BROOKS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we rise to speak in the highest praise of a woman who has worked for much of her life to improve the lot of people in need, a woman who has done more than probably anyone to save and create housing in the Bronx when it seemed that everyone else was fleeing.

Genevieve Brooks is vice president for the Faith Center for Community Development, where she is dedicating herself to creating and preserving healthy neighborhoods. She has been doing this in many guises for most of her life. As Deputy Borough President of the Bronx she oversaw policy implementation for a county of 1.2 million people while managing the day-to-day operations of 120 people and agency professionals, as well as community based organizations, in planning for and improving housing and the delivery of municipal services. She has served on the Boards of Directors of Bronx Health and Human Services Development Corp. and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. She has also served on the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board and the Advisory Council of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

She has organized and run dozens of organizations to improve housing either communally or throughout the Borough. She was instrumental in the Bronx being named one of America's top ten cities.

Genevieve Brooks is being honored for her good works by being named Bronx Woman of Distinction. No one is more deserving of this honor; no one has done more to earn it.

PROTEST ON BEHALF OF
ALEXANDR NIKITIN

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, next week, on Thursday, June 25, human rights activists and defenders of the environment plan to gather in front of the Russian Consulate in San Francisco to protest the continuing mistreatment of former Russian Navy Captain Alexandr Nikitin.

Working with the Norwegian environmental group "Bellona," Mr. Nikitin provided resource material for a report entitled "The Russian Northern Fleet: sources of Radioactive Contamination," that exposed the Russian Navy's nuclear waste dumping in the White Sea and Kola Peninsula region. The report revealed, for instance, that fifty-two decommissioned nuclear submarines still containing nuclear fuel are rusting at the Murmansk dockside and that nuclear reactors from other decommissioned submarines were simply dumped into the Arctic Ocean.

It would probably be too much to ask that the Russian government thank him for his efforts. Frankly, the Russian government is not the only government that has not looked kindly on environmental whistle blowers. However, most governments would not go to the lengths to which the Russian government has gone to punish Mr. Nikitin for his expose.

On February 2, 1996, he was arrested and charged with "revealing state secrets," a charge that could carry the death penalty if he were convicted. In October 1996, the Federal Security Service (FSB) declared the Bellona/Nikitin report "forbidden literature." Nikitin was held in pretrial detention from February to December 1996. I would note that during this time his brother-in-law, who had served in the Russian Northern Fleet, died of radiation poisoning.

Protests from human rights activists and defenders of the environment resulted in Nikitin's release from detention, but the charges were not dropped. The FSB attempted to have him indicted on the basis of unpublished "secret decrees," a blatant violation of the Russian constitution. Even the Federal Prosecutor's office admitted that "mistakes were made" and that the case "contains no hint of espionage." The FSB had to back down, and after six earlier investigations, now claims to have a legitimate case to go to trial. One wonders how many chances the FSB gets.

Meanwhile, Nikitin has been required to remain in St. Petersburg. His wife and daughter came to the United States last year to accept on his behalf the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize for his environmental work. Their apartment is kept under surveillance, the phone has been tapped, and Nikitin's lawyer was recently approached by thugs on the street and told to "stay away from this."

But the FSB has misjudged their man. Alexandr Nikitin and his family are standing up to the reactionary forces of the past. They do this not only for themselves, but for millions of Russians and millions of others on this planet who are endangered by ecological irresponsibility and indifference. If we care about human rights and the future of our planet, we should add our voices in support of Alexandr Nikitin's cause. The Russian government